



Monachus monachus

Annex	II, IV
Priority	Yes
Species group	Mammals
Regions	Marine Macaronesian, Marine Mediterranean

Monachus monachus

The Mediterranean monk seal, *Monachus monachus*, inhabits the marine Macaronesian and Mediterranean regions where it breeds, respectively, in the archipelago of Madeira and throughout a large part of the Greek island archipelagos and the island of Crete. A colony is also reported in Cyprus and sighting data is reported for southern Italian and Spanish locations.

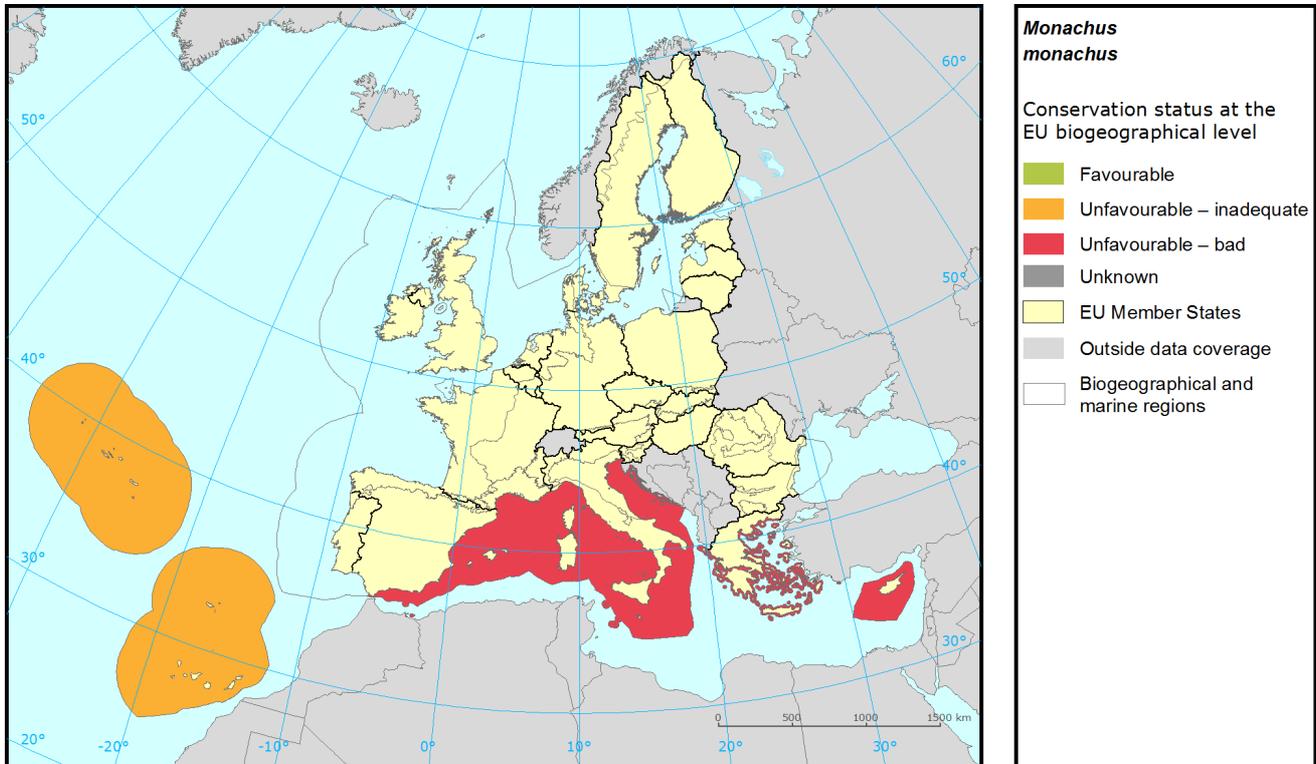
The overall conclusion is unfavorable in both regions. Unfavorable- bad (U2) in the Marine Mediterranean region, and Unfavorable- inadequate (U1) in the Marine Macaronesian region. This is in agreement with the IUCN list of threatened species that list Mediterranean monk seal as critically endangered. Data is not complete for any of the Parameters in the Marine Mediterranean region and populations values in the Marine Macaronesian region is unknown. Considering the vulnerable status of this species, urgent actions should be taken to collect data, so that appropriate conservation measures can be taken towards the many known pressures and threats towards the species. The Mediterranean Monk Seal was historically reduced to a very small population due to deliberate killings by fishermen and sealing. The population in the Marine Mediterranean region is heavily fragmented with many small subpopulations. There are also signs of inbreeding. Apart from this, pressures and threats are mainly linked to fishing activities but also to boating activities and pollution.

Listed pressures and threats are: fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, professional passive fishing, leisure fishing, trawling, netting, trapping, poisoning, poaching, hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, recreational cave visits, scuba diving, snorkeling, continuous urbanization, reduction or loss of specific habitat features, discharges, water pollution, marine , water pollution, noise nuisance, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, reduced fecundity/ genetic depression in animals (inbreeding), shipping lanes.

Species: *Monachus monachus*

Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
MMAC	FV	XX	FV	U1	U1	+	19	XX	Not genuine
MMED					U2	x	81	U2	

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Monachus monachus

Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Favourable |  EU Member States |
|  Unfavourable – inadequate |  Outside data coverage |
|  Unfavourable – bad |  Biogeographical and marine regions |
|  Unknown | |

The map shows both Conservation Status and distribution using a 10 km x 10 km grid. Conservation status is assessed at biogeographical level. Therefore the representation in each grid cell is only illustrative.

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MS Region	Conservation status of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
PT MMAC	FV	XX	FV	U1	U1	+	100.0	N/A	
CY MMED	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	12.2	U2	Better data
ES MMED	U1	U2	U2	U2	U2	=		XX	Changed method
GR MMED	FV	U2	U1-	U1	U2		80.9	U2	
IT MMED	U2	U2	U2	U2	U2	-	6.9	U2	

Knowing that not all changes in conservation status between the reporting periods were genuine, Member States were asked to give the reasons for changes in conservation status. Bulgaria and Romania only joined the EU in 2007 and Greece did not report for 2007-12 so no reason is given for change for these countries. Greek data shown above is from 2001-06.

Main pressures and threats reported by Member States

Member States were asked to report the 20 most important threats and pressures using an agreed hierarchical list which can be found on the [Article 17 Reference Portal](#). Pressures are activities which are currently having an impact on the species and threats are activities expected to have an impact in the near future. Pressures and threats were ranked in three classes 'high, medium and low importance'; the tables below only show threats and pressures classed as 'high', for some species there were less than ten threats or pressures reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	60
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	40

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	33
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	33
G02	Sport and leisure infrastructures	17
K05	Reduced fecundity/Genetic depression	17

Proportion of population covered by the Natura 2000 network

For species listed in the Annex II of the Directive Member States were asked to report the population size within the Natura 2000 network. The percentage of species population covered by the network was estimated by comparing the population size within the network and the total population size in the biogeographical/marine region.

Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites in biogeographical/marine region

	MMAC	MMED
CY		100
IT		x
PT	100	

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱ

Most frequently reported conservation measures

For species listed in the Annex II of the Directive Member States were asked to report up to 20 conservation measures being implemented for this species using an agreed list which can be found on the Article 17 Reference Portal. Member States were further requested to highlight up to five most important ('highly important') measures; the table below only shows measures classed as 'high', for many species there were less than ten measures reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' conservation measures

Code	Measure	Frequency
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	33
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	22
7.4	Specific single species or species group management measures	22
6.0	Other spatial measures	11
7.3	Regulation/ Management of fishery in marine and brackish systems	11

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive in 2013 and covering the period 2007-2012. More detailed information, including the MS reports, is available at:

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/species/summary/?group=Mammals&period=3&subject=Monachus+monachus>

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i Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level: Current Conservation Status (Current CS) shows the status for the reporting period 2007-2012, Previous Conservation Status (Previous CS) for the reporting period 2000-2006. Reason for change in conservation status between the reporting periods indicates whether the changes in the status were genuine or not genuine. Previous Conservation Status was not assessed for Steppic, Black Sea and Marine Black Sea regions. For these regions the Previous status is therefore considered as 'unknown'. The percentage of the species population occurring within the biogeographical/marine region (% in region) is calculated based on the area of GIS distribution.

ii Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites in biogeographical/marine region: In some cases the population size within the Natura 2000 network has been estimated using a different methodology to the estimate of overall population size and this can lead to percentage covers greater than 100%. In such case the value has been given as 100% and highlighted with an asterisk (*). The value 'x' indicates that the Member State has not reported the species population and/or the coverage by Natura 2000. No information is available for Greece. The values are only provided for regions, in which the occurrence of the species has been reported by the Member States.